Renewable energy policy

2251. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government gives importance to non-conventional energy sources;

(b) if so, the estimated non-conventional energy potential of the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no renewable energy policy in place in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to put in place a renewable energy policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is promoting the development of various renewable energy sources to supplement conventional energy generation. Already, about 8% of the total installed power generation capacity has been established through renewable energy sources.

(b) A potential of around 90,000 MWeq for energy/power generation from different renewable energy sources (excluding solar) in the country has been estimated as on date as under:—

Wind power	:	48,561 MW
Small Hydro Power	:	14,294 MW
Bio Power	:	26,367 MW

The potential for solar energy is estimated for most parts of the country at around 20MW per square kilometer of open, shadow free area covered with solar collectors.

(c) to (e) An Expert Committee constituted by the Planning Commission has already prepared an Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) covering all sources of energy including renewable energy sources.

Power generation from non-conventional sources

†2252. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not increasing the power generation as people in each part of the country are facing scarcity of power and Government has made a number of promises to increase the power generation;

(b) to what extent Government has promoted the non-conventional sources of power;

(c) to what extent it has increased the power generation;

(d) whether efforts are being made by Government to generate power from non-conventional sources of energy even in rural areas;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government to sort out the shortage, in view of day-by-day increasing demand of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Electricity is a concurrent subject. The supply and distribution of electricity in a State/UT is within the purview of the respective State Government/State Power Utility. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government by establishing power plants in the Central Sector through Central Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) and (c) A grid-interactive power generation installed capacity of 13,615 MW from various renewable energy sources (mainly wind, small hydro, biomass and solar energy) has been set up as on 30.11.2008. This corresponds to about 8 per cent of our total power generation installed capacity from all sources.

(d) and (e) The Government has several programmes to generate power from renewable sources of energy throughout the country including rural areas. Under these programmes, a mix of fiscal and financial incentives which include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, nil/concessional excise and customs duties. Further benefit under Section 80-1A of Income Tax Act 1961 is available to undertakings setup for the generation or generation and distribution of Renewable power in India. This apart, preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power is being given in most potential States.

(f) Various steps taken being taken to improve overall availability of power in the country include addition of generation capacity, development of Ultra Mega Power Projects, harnessing surplus captive power into the grid, strengthening and improving of sub-transmission system in States, promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures, and strengthening of inter-state and inter-regional transmission capacity.

Biomass resources for power generation

2253. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70-75 per cent of biomass resources in the country are used as fodder as fuel for domestic cooking, and for other economic purposes, leaving 120-150 million tonnes of usable agro-industrial and agricultural residues per year, which could be used for power generation;

(b) if so, the details of power projects working and under implementation, based on usable agro-industrial and agricultural residues; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the availability of biomass for power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) It is estimated that about 120-150 million tones of agro-industrial and agricultural residues per year would be available as surplus which could be used for power generation.